In The Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for determining the quality of milk, the method

comprising the steps of:

      examining a milk sample <u>with a detector</u>; and

      applying an object recognition rule <u>to the examined milk sample using a determination</u>

            <u>device, the object recognition rule</u> including the steps of:

      detecting an object in the milk sample;

      distinguishing the object type as either a particle object or a non-particle object; and

      distinguishing ~~the~~ <u>a particle</u> object type as either a mineral particle object or a biological

            particle object.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

      extracting the object from the sample <u>with a controller</u>.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the non-particle object

type is a bubble object.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of detecting an

object in the milk sample comprises the step of:

      identifying ~~an area~~ <u>a portion of interest</u> of the ~~object~~ <u>milk sample with an identification</u>

            <u>device</u>.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of detecting an object ~~from~~ <u>in</u> the milk sample based on the object recognition rules comprises the step of:

locating a boundary of the object <u>with the determination device</u>.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

specifying an object parameter for the object recognition rule; and

detecting that parameter in an object <u>with the determination device</u>.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of specifying the object parameter comprises the step of:

optically capturing the object parameter <u>with an optical device</u>.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of specifying the object parameter comprises the step of:

deriving the object parameter from optical lightness of the object <u>with the determination device</u>.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of specifying the object parameter for the object recognition rule comprises the step of:

deriving the object parameter from an outer contour of an object <u>with the determination device</u>.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of specifying the object parameter for the object recognition rule comprises the step of:

deriving the object parameter from contrast of the object <u>with the determination device</u>.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, the step of specifying the object

parameter for the object recognition rule comprises the step of:

deriving the object parameter from a color of the object <u>with the determination device</u>.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

specifying a plurality of object parameters for the object recognition rule to determine an

object type of a detected object <u>using the determination device</u>.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

employing fuzzy logic <u>with the determination device</u> to determine and vary a plurality of

parameters <u>for</u> an object type of a detected object.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

performing gradient formation <u>with the determination device</u> in view of a physical quality

wherein the physical quality is selected from the group consisting essentially of:

hue, intensity, saturation, electrical conductivity, electrical capacity, reflection,

transmission, and combinations thereof.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

determining a characteristic value of the object <u>using the determination device</u>.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

   specifying an object parameter <u>with the determination device</u> for the object recognition

      rule that is detectable through incident lighting.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps

of:

   determining milk quality based on an object type <u>using the determination device</u>; and

   then selectively routing the milk to a marketable milk container or discarding the milk

      <u>using a controller</u>.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps

of:

   routing a predetermined quantity of milk into a measuring chamber <u>using a controller</u>;

      <u>and</u>

   draining at least part of the liquid phase of the milk from the measuring chamber <u>using</u>

      <u>the controller</u>; and <u>the step of examining the milk sample comprises the step of:</u>

   capturing an image of at least a portion of the measuring chamber surface <u>with an optical</u>

      <u>device</u>.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of:

   examining a milk sample comprises the steps of:

   routing a predetermined quantity of milk across a measuring chamber surface, on which a

      film is formed <u>using a controller</u>; and

   capturing an image of the measuring chamber surface <u>using an optical device</u>.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

removing the object from the milk sample <u>with an extractor.</u>

23.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

determining a frequency of object detections of for individual object types <u>using the</u>

<u>determination device.</u>

24.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step

of:

deriving a milk quality grade from a detection frequency for individual object types <u>using</u>

<u>the determination device.</u>

25.   (Withdrawn) A method for recognizing objects in milk, characterized in that a milk

sample to be examined is routed onto a measuring surface and an image of the measuring surface

is captured, and at least one object recognition rule is employed to distinguish between at least

two types of detected objects.

26.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein particles are detected.

27.   (Withdrawn) A device for determining the quality of milk, comprising:

a measuring chamber into which a sample can be routed;

a detector means for capturing at least a portion of the measuring chamber; and

a determination means which is suitable for determining a type of an object in the sample

on the basis of at least one predefined object recognition rule.

28.   (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 27, characterized by an identification means

to identify at least one portion of interest which portion of interest is characteristic for an object.

29.   (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 27, characterized by an extraction means for extracting a fault image from an image of the sample and a reference image wherein the fault image is employed for determining the at least one parameter.

30.   (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 27, characterized in that a selection unit is provided such that depending on the quality, the milk is either routed to the marketable milk container or it is discarded.

31.   (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, characterized in that at least a predetermined quantity of milk is routed into a measuring chamber having at least one capturing unit, at least part of the liquid phase of the milk in the measuring chamber is then drained out of the measuring chamber and then at least a portion of the measuring chamber surface is captured.

32.   (Withdrawn) A method for providing a classification database for classifying objects in milk comprising the following steps:

   providing a reference image of a milk sample;

   providing at least one image of at least one object;

   extracting at least one fault image from the reference image and the image of an object;

   providing a typing code;

   determining characteristic properties of objects in the fault image; and

   storing the characteristic properties to an object type of the typing code.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the non-particle object type is a reflection object.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the non-particle object type is a defect object.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

specifying an object parameter for the object recognition rule that is detectable through a transmissive read method.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

deriving a milk quality grade from an object detection frequency for individual object sizes.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

distinguishing the object from a defect; and

excluding the defect from being considered by the object recognition rule.